



Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota

POST INDICATOR



Quarterly Newsletter

June 2002

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jon Nisja

Lots of new things to report on. Four people were elected to new Board positions in March. My congratulations to Vice President Bob James (Bloomington), Treasurer John Powers (Farmington), Director Kermit Waters (Oakdale), and Director Phil Owens (St. Paul).

A special thanks to outgoing Vice President Marilyn Arnlund (Maple Grove), Treasurer Tom Deegan (Minneapolis), and Director Kevin Kelly (Blaine). These three people served FMAM with commitment and dedication during their respective terms. I especially want to recognize Marilyn Arnlund for all of the extra things she did for FMAM as Vice President. She was responsible for setting up the meetings and lining up presentations. She performed hundreds of the "behind the scenes" tasks these past few years, including filling in as a last minute presenter when the September 11th attacks "grounded" our speaking guest in another part of the country.

N.F.P.A. ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE:

I am writing this message while attending the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. This has been a wonderful experience. I cannot say enough good things about the Minneapolis Convention Center. Having attended a dozen or so of NFPA's conferences, I can say for the record that

Minneapolis provided facilities as good as any that I have seen.

FMAM was clearly a part of the NFPA Annual Meeting. FMAM operated two welcome booths: one at the MSP airport and a second one at the Convention Center. In addition, FMAM donated \$250.00 to the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) for their breakfast.

Gordy Bates (Minneapolis) and Bob James (Bloomington) chaired a subcommittee that staffed the booths. FMAM was also able to sell merchandise and provide information to attendees. Several other FMAM members worked at one or both booths; a special thanks to all whom helped out.

NFPA's Building Code (NFPA 5000) was approved at the Technical Session on Thursday, May 23rd. There was a fair amount of controversy about the document itself and, in the end, a motion was made to return the document to committee. That action would have had the effect of postponing NFPA 5000 for a year or more. In the end, the motion to return the document was soundly defeated. I am fairly certain that there will be appeals to the NFPA Standards Council on parts of the document and the document as a whole.

Clearly, one of the high points for me was the inclusion of a requirement that all new one and two-

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family homes be sprinklered. This was originally rejected by the NFPA 5000 Technical Committee but passed when challenged at the meeting. This is similar to a provision that St. Paul Fire Protection Engineer Chris Cahill championed through the “International” Code process a couple of years ago.

GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS:

If you are reading this, it means that you are on the roster as an FMAM member (that is good news). The bad news is that if you have not paid your dues for 2002, this is the last Post Indicator that you will receive. We will be handing out membership cards at the June meeting in Bloomington.

The other good news is that we currently have about 260 people as members. The bad news is that we have about four dozen members that have not renewed this year. Some have legitimate reasons: retirement, job assignment changes, promotions, etc. The FMAM Board is trying to track down the others to see if they want to renew, maintain, or continue their membership.

RETIREMENTS:

The Burnsville Fire Department is losing a wealth of talent in their Fire Prevention Bureau. Both Fire Marshal Jim Schwab and Fire Inspector Tom Hennem are retiring. Both were dedicated, bright, and solid professionals who will be missed not only in Burnsville but also throughout the state.

COMMITTEE OPENINGS:

With Jim Schwab’s retirement, we have an opening for an FMAM representative to the Governor’s Council on Fire Prevention & Control. Jeff Schadegg (Inver Grove Heights) has been the alternate for Jim and is interested in serving as the FMAM representative. That means that we will be looking for someone to replace Jeff as the alternate for FMAM on the Governor’s Council.

PUBLIC FIRE SAFETY EDUCATION:

Lots of summer opportunities to get involved. Minnesota is a Risk Watch state; that is an awesome achievement. Thanks to Paula Peterson (St. Paul), Dan Bernardy (State Fire Marshal), Dennis Stark (Alexandria), and the countless others who have been involved in this. Training for the

five pilot sites begins later this month.

The Duluth Fire Department hosted the United States Fire Administration’s (USFA) Juvenile Firesetter Intervention training in May. I understand that approximately 20 people attended. Thanks to Duluth Deputy Fire Marshal Marnie Grondahl and Duluth Fire Marshal John Strongitharm for taking on this endeavor.

At our June meeting, we will be having two representatives from the American Red Cross briefly address the meeting and provide FMAM with information on two education programs that they have. One program is called “Facing Fear” for grades K-12 and the other is called “Master of Disaster” for grades K-8. Public fire safety education is bigger than just the fire service; this is an opportunity to see what additional resources are available to get people to think and behave in a fire-safe manner.

TRAINING:

With the adoption of the new state fire code in the next couple months, the FMAM Board is looking for instructors to teach classes on the International Fire Code (IFC) throughout Minnesota. If you are interested in teaching or assisting with these classes, please contact myself or someone on the board as soon as possible. We are looking for people that are subject matter experts or are interested in helping with logistics.

RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLERS:

The Minnesota Chapter of the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA Region 15) is upset with FMAM, and specifically FMAM Website Editor George Magdal, for their positions on the combination or multi-purpose sprinkler system. NFSA Region 15 is withholding all funding of residential sprinkler efforts, advertising, and support to fire service organizations in Minnesota. A copy of the e-mail message from NFSA Regional Representative Dominic Kass is included in this edition of the Post Indicator. The FMAM membership needs to be aware of this issue.

See you on June 12th in Bloomington.

**Fire Marshal's Association of Minnesota
MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2002**

CALL TO ORDER: The business meeting was called to order by President Jon Nisja at 12:20 p.m. at the Wirsbo Factory. Introductions of members were made.

Motion to approve the December 12, 2001 minutes by Jeff Howe and 2nd by Pat Sheehan, motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Deegan reported we have 247 members and the FMAM account is approximately \$4,000. Motion to accept treasurer's report by Thierry Chevallier and 2nd by Cary Smith, motion passed unanimously.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT:

State Fire Marshal Tom Brace reported: Fire Marshal Brace complimented Vice-President Marilyn Arnlund for her effort in scheduling the training session and her work on the recent survey sent to members.

Brace updated the members on legislative issues including:
The State budget going from a surplus to the current deficit, causing statewide cuts.
The possibility of adding a surcharge to 911.
It is unknown what will happen with the State Fire Marshal Tax.
The Fireworks bill is on the floor of the house; it is being pushed as a revenue generator for the State.

Budget cuts have left the State Fire Marshal's Division with 11 position not being filled. The SFMD will no longer be doing Daycare Inspections effective July 1, 2002. The Counties will be looking for help from local Fire Marshals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FIRE CODE COMMITTEE: Refer to the Post Indicator and FMAM web site for current information. The date for adoption of the SBC is

still July 1, 2002. The Building Code Amendments should be on their web site. There may be some controversy over the adoption and it may end up in an Administrative Hearing due to other codes such as the Mechanical Code adoption.

The code committee has already starting working on the next code.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Bob James reported that the PERA Police/Fire Pension bill for Fire Marshals and Inspectors is being delayed one year. To gather additional information and possible language changes.

The members discussed the possibility of Fireworks passing. Chris Cahill suggested that we (the fire service) should be working on regulations, qualifications, testing, storage, and fee in the event the bill does pass.

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The Juvenile Fire Setter Conference in St. Cloud was a success, approximately 43 in attendance.

Terry Iverson was commended for all his efforts on the St. Paul Home Show. The Home Show was a great success. Parking will be reimbursed for volunteers, send your receipt to the treasurer. Volunteers are always needed to make these types of events successful. Thanks to all that gave up their time to help.

Minnesota is now a Risk Watch State. A grant has been received thanks to Dan Bernardy and Paula Peterson. St. Paul has been implementing this program for a while now with success. Anyone interested in starting this program in your city should contact Dan or Paula for information.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Vice-President Marilyn Arnlund reported that the training for the next membership meeting has not been confirmed.

"NFPA 5000" seminar is scheduled for March 19 at the Minnetonka Community Center.
"It's Your Ass" seminar is scheduled for March 27, at Lido's Café in Roseville.

Upcoming Seminars:

Lessons Learned Seminar (West St. Paul and Shoreview fires).
Fire Related Building Construction
NFSA Advantage Seminar
The Pentagon Tragedy

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FIRE

PROTECTION SYSTEMS: No report.

CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Phil Owens reported that the Inspector II test is being rewritten and will include a PowerPoint portion to satisfy the practical part of the testing needed for certification.

RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER TASK FORCE: George Magdal stated they would be meeting next week. The commercial on sprinklers has gone national. We need to get more members trained to use the Sprinkler Trailer to help at events.

Discussion on the need for FMAM to determine what our role is in residential sprinkler systems. The regulation, permits, plan review, inspections etc. In order to have input in any legislation or regulation of these systems, we as a membership must be proactive in the process.

GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON FIRE PROTECTION AND CONTROL: No Report.

1311 CONSERVATION CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Final draft was completed and will be adopted with the building code.

CONSTRUCTION CODES ADVISORY COUNCIL: Refer to the Post Indicator

NFPA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE: The committee has been working on gathering information packets for the attendees. We will need volunteers for the conference and at the airport. Volunteers will be wearing their FMAM polo shirts to be easily identified. Merchandise will be set up at the convention center for sale. Motion to authorize up to \$2500 for pens, bags, etc for the conference gifts by Marilyn Arnlund and 2nd by Phil Owens, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Vice-President Marilyn Arnlund informed the members that the code subcommittee meetings are open to the members and encouraged them to attend.

Merchandise sales are excellent.

George reported the Web Site had crashed and has gotten the site back on line.

President Jon Nisja will be attending the IFMA board meeting at the National Fire Academy. There will be some reorganizing by FEMA/USFA/Fire Academy/Emergency Management and focusing the mission on “Save Lives”. Also available is a free CD from NFA.

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF BOARD POSITIONS:

Positions open for election, Vice-President, 2 board seats, and treasurer.

Nominations for board seats:
Butch Gervais
Kermits Waters
Phil Owens

After counting of ballots, seats will be filled by Butch Gervais and Kermit Waters. Motion to destroy the ballot by Bob Imholte and 2nd by Pat Sheehan, motion passed unanimously.

Nomination for treasurer:
John Powers
A white ballot motion by Cary Smith and 2nd by Phil Owens, motion passed unanimously.

Nomination for Vice-President:
Marilyn Arnlund nominated Bob James. A white ballot motion by Bob Imholte and 2nd by Pat Sheehan, motion passed unanimously.

The vacant board seat left by Bob James was a white ballot for Phil Owens to fill. Motion passed unanimously.

President Jon Nisja thanked all the outgoing board members for all their hard work and dedication to FMAM.

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Nisja asked for donations to NFA, a brick on the firefighter memorial due to the expected large annual memorial service. Money will go to survivors of all deceased firefighters.

Motion by Phil Owens and 2nd by Lyle Felsch for a donation, amount to be determined by the board based on funds available in the name of Don Manno, motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Lyle Felsch and 2nd by Ross Parker to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbie Floyd, Secretary

NEWS FROM MOORHEAD FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Moorhead Fire Department has recently received an accelerant detecting K-9 from the ATF. Enya is a three year old black lab and her handler is Fire Marshal Todd Erickson. On their first day on duty, March 25th, they were called to aid in a fire investigation in Minneapolis by the ATF. Since that time they have responded to fires in North Dakota and Northwest Minnesota. Todd would really like to get the word out about their new tool. If you need their assistance or more information please contact Todd at 218-299-5248.

CODES AND STANDARDS AND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY
Russ Sanders, NFPA

The National Fire Protection Association, International (NFPA) recently reported that in 1999 firefighter deaths reached a ten-year peak. According to the report, 112 on-duty firefighter fatalities occurred in 1999, making 1999 the highest annual U.S. firefighter death toll since 1989 (118). “Stress and overexertion, usually resulting in heart attacks, continue to be the leading cause of fatal injury for on-duty firefighters...”

Over the past several years much has been reported about the need for on-scene accountability, firefighter physical conditioning, and training. In fact, NFPA has developed dozens of standards to address these issues. However, it was the second-leading cause of fatal injuries to on-duty firefighters that caught my eye. In second place was entrapment, which claimed the lives of 24 on-duty firefighters in 1999.

NFPA also reported that, “Although on-line of duty deaths have declined over the past two decades, the rate of deaths per million structure fires has dropped very little... The largest portion of deaths – 50% – occurred on the fireground.” The six firefighters who died in a Worcester, Massachusetts warehouse in December 1999, and the three firefighters who died soon after at a structure fire in Iowa, are grim reminders of the dangers firefighters face while fighting structure fires of all types. And then, on September 11, 2001, the world stood still as the World Trade Center buildings collapsed leaving thousands dead and buried in the rubble. (The collapse of the World Trade Center and surrounding buildings, which serve as a horrific example of the correlation between building construction and firefighter/occupant safety, is not discussed in this paper.)

An NFPA paper titled “Fire Ground Fatalities As a Result of Structural Collapse: 1990-1999” reported that 966 firefighters died during the period. Of these 966 fatalities, 441 occurred on the

fire ground. “Fifty-three of the 302 deaths at structure fires were the result of structural collapses. This included 38 firefighters caught or trapped in 24 fires and 15 firefighters fatally struck by collapses at 13 fires... The largest number of deaths were the result of floor collapses (20 deaths), followed by roof collapses (16 deaths) and ceiling collapses (2 deaths)”

Over the past years I have seen numerous changes designed to improve firefighter safety. Improved on-scene accountability systems, better firefighter gear and equipment, and improved communications are only a few of the many important improvements that have been implemented in fire departments across America. From my personal experience as a firefighter I know that each of these improvements and many others I have not listed in this paper, are important components of effective and safe on-scene operations. However, from the statistics listed above, it is obvious that all of us in the fire protection and life safety businesses need to do more.

One important means of improving firefighter safety that most firefighters continue to overlook is participation in the code and standard development, enforcement, and adoption processes. This is especially true when it comes to building, fire, and life safety codes for the built environment. And, I’m not referring only to the development of codes that regulate new construction. Firefighters should be leading the way in the push for building, fire, and life safety codes and standards that require an “appropriate level of safety” in existing buildings. Aging, improperly maintained buildings create hazardous conditions both for the public and for firefighters. Yet many fire service leaders seem content to sit on the sidelines and let others take the lead when it comes to code issues. In fact, I believe this lack of firefighter participation in the building code development, enforcement, and adoption processes is the most neglected firefighter safety issue of the past 50 years.

First, let’s take a look at the importance of code and standard development. In terms of life safety, the goal of building and fire codes *has* historically been to allow occupants to safely exit the building. The fact is, well after the occupants have exited a burning

building, firefighters must remain inside that building to conduct their secondary search and complete extinguishment and salvage operations. For these reasons NFPA will soon publish NFPA 5000®, which will be the first building code in the U.S. developed through an ANSI-accredited process. When NFPA took on this historic project, its Board of Directors included a mandate that the technical committees consider firefighter safety when developing the code’s technical provisions!

There is a clear and direct correlation between building construction features and systems and firefighter safety. An obvious example is truss construction. Many of us in the fire service have personally witnessed the dangers and tragic consequences of fighting fires in buildings with truss-constructed roofs and floors. Numerous case studies have proven what every experienced firefighter knows: Truss construction is extremely dangerous when exposed to fire and heat. Would truss construction be widely used today if firefighters had actively participated in the building code process in past years? My guess is the answer is a *qualified* “yes”. Truss construction offers many advantages over stick construction, including what some consider the all-important cost factor. However, if firefighters had been actively involved in developing building codes I would expect to see much stricter requirements on the use of truss construction, such as strict automatic sprinkler requirements for unprotected truss systems. However, until firefighters play a more influential role in the development of building codes, we will never know the answer to this and similar questions.

Fire service participation should not be limited to the development of codes and standards. A related and equally important consideration is the state and local code and standard adoption process. The best codes and standards written are of little value if the legislation and/or regulation adopting them dilute their effectiveness. To ensure that codes and standards are adopted in a manner that enhances fire and life safety, fire service professionals must be active participants in the adoption process.

I am not so naive as to suggest that greater firefighter participation in the building code development, enforcement, and adoption processes would eliminate firefighter injuries or deaths. In fact, it's unlikely that firefighter participation in these processes would even prevent all of the firefighter deaths and injuries that occur each year in structure fires due to structural failures. Firefighter safety is a multi-dimensional problem that must be attacked on all fronts.

Further, this paper is in no way meant to detract from the good work of building officials and other professionals who have been very active in the code processes. Their hard work and dedication are to be commended. However, I am suggesting that firefighter involvement, participation, and leadership in the code processes are important and, for the most part, overlooked components of the overall equation to prevent firefighter deaths and injuries.

Countless papers, books, and standards have been published on the need to improve firefighter cardiovascular conditioning, on-scene command and control, and training and equipment. This is important work that must be continued. However, attention given to the importance of firefighter participation in the code processes discussed in this paper pale in comparison to the interest and energy that have gone into addressing the many other causes of firefighter deaths and injuries. It is for this reason that I feel that the lack of firefighter participation in the building code development, enforcement, and adoption processes is the most neglected firefighter safety issue of the past 50 years!

Let's not forget that when others are making their way out of a burning building, firefighters are swimming upstream to enter. Clearly, firefighters have a unique interest in building systems, design, and construction. If firefighter concerns in these areas are to be adequately addressed, firefighters must be influential, active participants in the code development, enforcement, and adoption processes. When this happens, we will have addressed another important component in the overall scheme to prevent needless firefighter deaths and injuries. Until this happens, we will continue to fall short of this lofty goal.

Adoption of 2000 International Fire Code – A Progress Report

By Robert Imholte, State Fire Marshal Division,
Code Development Coordinator

Since my last report to you, Tom Brace and Tom Joachim have met three times to assess where things are at with the adoption of the new Fire and Building Codes and to discuss correlation issues. The latest meeting, as of this writing (5-20-02), was held on May 16th. Here's the status of the 2002 Minnesota State Fire Code (MSFC) as it was reported at that meeting:

- Another working draft of proposed IFC amendments has been sent to the State Revisor's Office for review. That document, entitled "*6th Working Draft of Proposed Minnesota State Fire Code Amendments (3-25-02)*", is posted on the State Fire Marshal Division's web site. The web site can be accessed at www.fire.state.mn.us or www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal. You should be able to find the amendments on the main page under "What's new in the Fire Marshal Division". Based on information received from the Revisor's Office, we should have the draft back from them by the end of May. Once we have received the draft, it will need to be reviewed for any changes that need to be made to satisfy the Revisor and resubmitted for final approval.
- Completion of the Statement of Need and Reasonableness (SONAR) for the proposed amendments should coincide with the receipt of the rule draft from the Revisor. The draft of the SONAR will need to be submitted to the Department of Public Safety's Rules Coordinator for review and approval. Once we get it back, it, too, will need to be reviewed and necessary changes made before the rules and accompanying SONAR can be submitted to the Governor's Office for its review and approval.

Other items of interest related to the code update process include:

- Tom Brace and Tom Joachim are still planning a joint code adoption. The intent is to adopt the building, fire, existing buildings and residential codes, as well as Optional Appendix 1306, with the same effective date. To do that, they plan to publish the proposed rules at the same time and schedule any necessary public hearings to tie in together.
- The mechanical code is behind the rest of the codes in the process, but the State Building Code Division's (SBCD) Mechanical Code Advisory Committee has completed its work. Staff is now putting together the necessary amendments and associated SONAR for that document.
- At the request of the State Board of Electricity, plans are to publish for an update of the State Electrical Code to the 2002 NEC with an effective date of 7-1-02.
- Tom Joachim and Tom Brace are expected to be making a joint statement shortly about adoption timelines for the building, fire and related codes.
- The proposed IBC amendments should now be posted on the SBCD's web site and can be accessed at www.admin.state.mn.us/buildingcodes.
- I've asked Patrick Sheehan to convene an internal committee to review current State Fire Marshal Division policies and update them as necessary to correlate with the 2002 MSFC. As in the past, the Division will most likely hold off on any formal training on the new fire code until we know for sure what amendments have been approved and we've completed the update of our policies.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions. I can be reached by phone at 320-685-8559, or e-mail at: Bob.Imholte@state.mn.us.

FIRE MARSHAL'S ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA
BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2002

Present: Jon Nisja, Marilyn Arnlund, Robbie Floyd, Kevin Kelly, Butch Gervais, Bob James, George Magdal, and Tom Brace

Meeting called to order at 09:15am.

Motion to approve the November 14, 2001 minutes by Butch Gervais and 2nd by Marilyn Arnlund.
Motion passed unanimously.

The board discussed FMAM's positions and weather or not the memberships needs where being met. Marilyn will send a survey out to the members asking for their input. The board to will use the survey results:

- Focus on important issues to the members
- Prioritize training
- Are the members getting the information what want and need?
- How information is disseminated to the members?
- How do they prefer the information being sent to them?

Treasurer's Report:

Tom Deegan reported that the balance is currently \$3567. Membership is up to 240, of which 130 members have paid for 2002. There are about 110 renewals not yet received.

Bob James will get in touch with members from 98, 99 and 2000 that have not renewed before any action is taken to remove them as members.
Motion by Bob James and 2nd by Butch Gervais.

Applications will be mailed out as a reminder; a notice will also be placed in the Post Indicator.

Jon Nisja will be having membership cards made again for the members.

Education:

The Juvenile Fire Setter Conference was a great success and had 43 in attendance.

Minnesota is now a Risk Watch State and is being implemented in at least 4 cities in the State. Paula Peterson from St. Paul Fire and Dan Bernardy from the State Fire Marshal's Division are the contacts for the program. Risk Watch is a "Teach the Teacher" program and the curriculum is on accidents/injuries but also includes fire.

The St. Paul Home and Patio Show was a great success. Terry Iverson did a wonderful job of setting up the event. FMAM had initially contributed \$1000 for the event, however since a very generous offer from the Fire Marshal of St. Paul, FMAM need only contribute \$500. Steve Zaccard has offered to contribute \$500 from the St. Paul Fire Department.

State Fire Marshal's Report:

Budget cuts are everywhere and the State Fire Marshal's Office is not exception. As of July 2002 the State Fire Marshal's Division will no longer be doing daycare inspections. All tank review plans and inspections will be done by local jurisdictions. The State is now under a hiring freeze on positions.

Brace discussed the current events regarding legislation:

The Fire Marshal Tax is still on the table; it may have to wait until next session.

Hi-Rise Retro Fit Sprinklers had language changes. Terrorism Bills, Pension/Relief Bills, Training Board, etc

Training Report:

March meeting will be held at the Wirsbo Factory in Apple Valley. Presentation will be at 9:30am from Wirsbo and a tour of the factory following.

March 19th at the Minnetonka Community Center – NFPA 5000

March 21st at Metro State Campus – Lessons Learned (West St. Paul & Shoreview)

March 19/20 and 21/22 at Maplewood Best Western – Lake Country (Egress I and II)

Code Committee:

Chapter 1306 has been active, and the committee has been reactivated.

Chapter 1311 Conservation Code has conflicts between fire and construction.

IFC Committee and Chief's Code Committee are now one. Subcommittee code meetings are open meetings and anyone interested is invited to attend – if interested contact Marilyn.

Adoption of the fire and building code are moving forward. Training was discussed by the board and what role FMAM should take.

IFCI training will be available for one free day. Jon, Marilyn, Bob, and George will find out additional information on the training and additional training available.

Merchandise:

Kevin Kelly informed the board that the inventory is at a good level. Suggestion was to sell the merchandise at the NFPA Conference in Minneapolis. Any additional orders will be done at a later date. Sales have been excellent.

Old Business:

NFPA Conference is approaching, discussion on what FMAM would like to provide as handouts. Bob and Gordy along with others are setting up informational bags, suggestions from pin, pens, patches, cookies, etc were discussed.

The "Reality Check" videos and CD are still available; we could possibly sell at the conference.

New Business:

Board Elections are coming up for Vice-President, 2 Board Members, and Treasurer. Robbie will be the election committee.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:30pm

Respectfully submitted:
Robbie Floyd
FMAM Secretary

IS YOUR COMMUNITY FIREWISE?

by Dave Schuller, Firewise Communities Specialist,
Minnesota DNR-Forestry

The year 2000 was a tough year for fire departments in the wildland-urban interface across the nation and here in Minnesota. In May, four homes were lost to a wildfire near Princeton. Then in October, the 8500 acre Carlos Edge Fire burned another four homes in Linwood.

To address the increasing wildland fire risk to firefighters and homeowners, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has established the Minnesota Firewise Program. The program is aimed at mitigating the factors of access, structure design and fuels that make wildland fires so much more complex in the wildland-urban interface. The program also aims to increase the capacity of communities to address the issues surrounding more and more people moving into their wildland areas.

Firewise is funded by a grant under the US Forest Service's National Fire Plan. The National Fire Plan is the federal response to the thousands of homes lost to wildfire throughout the nation in the past three years. Aimed at helping communities break the cycle of fire loss- rebuild- fire loss; grant money is available for activities ranging from broad scale fuel hazard reduction to mitigation activities around individual structures. These activities are highly integrated with planning and educational activities.

The Firewise Program is driven by community participation. The goal of the program is to have communities take ownership of the program, solve their existing fire risk problems and plan appropriately to keep from creating additional fire risk problems as they develop.

Mark Wurdeman and Dave Schuller are currently the two Firewise Specialists working with communities throughout the state. They are meeting with local communities to help them set up a program where they can assess the community fire risks and develop plans to address these risks. Ultimately, the communities will use grant funding to accomplish risk reduction on the ground.

How do you become a Firewise Community? It starts

with an initial contact, usually with the Fire Chief, Public Works Director, City Planner and Emergency Management Director. Other key community people should be brought into the discussions as early as possible.

Next there is an assessment of the wildfire hazard in the community. This assessment uses aerial photos and home inspections to rate homes based on wildland fire risk potential. Fire department staff, high school students and contractors are among those involved in doing this assessment. The resulting data is useful in locating concentrations of potential fire prone properties - the places the community needs to take action. The data also has many other applications, since every structure in the community is digitally mapped.

The wildfire hazard assessment answers such questions as "Where are there pine stands that need thinning? Where are there homes that need better accesses? and Where are the Hydrants?" With this information in hand, the community can now develop a plan of action to solve some of the risk problems.

On the ground risk reduction activities can be infrastructural, such as installing dry hydrants, improving road access and signage. But the most significant activities are encouraging homeowners to thin and prune trees, improve driveways and doing seasonal maintenance such as cleaning leaves out of gutters.

One example is the City of Andover, site of the 1999 Andover Fire. This fire burned a 10-mile stretch along the railroad tracks, threatened hundreds of homes and fortunately only burned one shed. The city has already identified one neighborhood adjacent to a new high school scheduled to open this fall. The neighborhood consists of 17 homes in a dense pine stand.

After several meetings with the homeowners, the city and DNR foresters have convinced the homeowners to remove some of the pine. This thinning will reduce the fuels that can turn a small ground fire into a raging crown fire. As part of the thinning, trees close to homes will be removed, giving firefighters more room to defend a home.

The homeowners are also given maintenance tips that they can do like cleaning pine needles out of gutters and other places they collect on the structure. These are places flying embers from a wildfire can catch the house on fire.

A more rural example is the work being done in Cook County in response to the 1999 windstorm that blew down thousands of acres of trees in and around the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. To prepare for what may be a wildfire of large proportions, a local Firewise Community Council has been formed to coordinate efforts of federal, state, county and local agencies. They are educating the entire community through workshops, a special website (www.boreal.org/fireinfo/), and doing one-on-one assessments of private properties. The workshops have been tailored toward contractors, developers, builders, tree service professionals, realtors, local volunteers, master gardeners, fire departments and homeowners. They have also been reducing fuel through carefully planned prescribed burns, harvesting of blown-down trees, and some access improvements. Other efforts include installing external water systems to wet down structures and their adjacent areas, continuing the E911/physical address signage program and installing dry hydrants in pertinent areas.

The key to the entire Firewise Program is education of homeowners. Protecting their home and property from wildfire is THEIR responsibility. It cannot be assumed that firefighters can save all the homes during a wildfire. As much as your fire department may want to, resources are limited and conditions may make it impossible to safely reach and protect every home.

Communities will have cost-share funding under this grant to address and solve a lot of their existing wildland fire risk problems. However, communities also need to change development practices, zoning and building codes so new homes don't create new problems.

If you would like more information on Firewise, visit the DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/firewise/index.html> or call your local DNR Forester to set up a meeting with a Firewise Specialist.

Dave Schuller
DNR Forestry - Metro Region
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IFC Hearings

Pittsburgh, PA, April 2002

The IFC Hearings ran from Monday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. and Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., April 8 and 9, 2002. I will highlight some of the interesting proposals that were heard. Each proposal that is discussed will be identified by the number found in the monograph. There were ~258 proposals. This will only be a brief summation of a few of the items I thought might be of interest. You can see or download all proposals and the results of each one on the web at:

<http://www.intlcode.org/codes/2002cycle/2002roh.html>.

F4-02: Change of use or occupancy. An attempt was made to place the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) into this section and was defeated. During testimony, it was pointed out that this code would automatically provide a 25% increase in allowable area the day the certificate of occupancy was issued. Other items that would have placed the IEBC into the fire code included **F63-02**. In the Scope, for the requirements for and the maintenance of fire resistive construction, it was proposed that for enclosing floor openings and shafts that the fire code officials use the IEBC. In **F73-02** in the Scope, for the design, installation, operation, testing and maintenance of all fire protection systems, the fire code official is sent to the IEBC. There were no links that sent the code official elsewhere or direction when this should be used, which in the opinion of much testimony from the floor and the members of the fire code committee, it was felt that this would cause much confusion for the fire code official.

An item was brought forward on security/anti theft devices. It was pointed out that there are new products on the market for security and anti-theft devices that are confusing and are a danger to responding firefighters. One such device that was shared during testimony was where in some buildings, if a person makes entry into a building illegally and sets off the burglar system, the building fills with smoke and locks all doors, so the burglar becomes distracted and can not find his way out of

the building. The firefighters responding to the building assume the building is on fire and make entry into a building where they can be injured or killed by the person burgling the building. **Item F43-02** was approved as modified.

Code proposal **F53-02** was approved as submitted. This proposal will require that all emergency and stand by generators where required by the code or not be listed in accordance with UL 2200.

Code proposal **F72-02** was approved as submitted. It clarifies that interior wall and ceiling finishes be classified in accordance with Section 803 of the IBC. Chapter 8 recognizes that interior finish materials are permitted to be tested by the room corner test; NFPA 286, instead of being tested by the Steiner Tunnel Test, ASTM 84. The approval criteria require low flame spread, low heat release (no flashover) and low smoke release. Thus, if a plastic material complies with the requirements of NFPA 286, it should be permitted to be used where a Class A material, per ASTM 84 is required.

Several code proposals attempted to change the successful MN code requirement for all **R occupancies to be sprinklered**. This included trying to change the requirement for R4's to sprinkler when there is more than eight occupants; also trying to change R1 and R4 to fire areas where more than 2 stories in height including basements, or having more than 16 dwelling units; excluding sprinkler systems entirely in Group R4 and R2 occupancies; and in Group R2 requiring sprinklering where the building is 2 stories or less, including the basement and where one or more of the following egress patterns exist: 1. Where primary egress for the dwelling unit is directly to grade, 2. Where there is direct egress from each dwelling unit to an outside stairway that does not service more than two units on the same floor, 3. Where there is direct access to an interior stair that only serves that unit, is

protected with 1 hour fire rated construction and is without other openings. I am happy to report that the fire code committee strongly disapproved all these proposals. Several of the members of the fire code committee reported that they were not willing to take the code backwards in safety.

Proposal F93-02 was approved as modified and will require sprinkler protection to be provided for exterior balconies of dwelling units and ground floor patios where the balconies are of Type V construction.

Proposal 104-02 was defeated. This proposal deleted the requirement for Class II standpipes and hose. It also replaced Class III standpipes in those locations in Group A-1 and A-2 where Class II were located. We were disappointed that this did not pass.

Proposal F115-02 was defeated. This proposal was represented by the International Council of Shopping Centers/ International Mass Retail Association. The proposal intention was to replace the requirement of a emergency voice/alarm communication system with a public address (PA) system. A PA system has no requirements for clarity of voice annunciation, the location of notification devices or any requirements for listing or on going maintenance.

Proposal F129-02 will require that when fire alarm systems are not monitored by a supervising station, an approved permanent sign must be installed adjacent to each manual fire alarm box that reads:
WHEN ALARM SOUNDS-CALL FIRE
DEPARTMENT

An extensive code proposal (4 pages) was disapproved that would have required **carbon monoxide alarms** in dwelling units and sleeping rooms, and on each level containing habitable space, in buildings of Group R, I-1 and Group I-4 occupancies. It also required that when an addition or alteration to a Group R occupancy adds bedrooms or sleeping rooms the CO alarms be installed. This proposal was also submitted to the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)

where it would require at least on CO alarm be installed in each dwelling unit or sleeping unit in all existing R occupancies where units or sleeping units are not already provided with CO alarms. The results of the proposal to IPMC were unknown at the time of this writing.

Proposal F139-02 was approved as amended. This will authorize the fire code official to require locking FDC caps on the fire department connections for water based fire protection systems where the responsible fire department carries appropriate key wrenches for removal.

Proposal F143-02 will require that any security devices affecting means of egress shall be subject to the approval of the fire code official.

Proposal F148-02 was approved to require means of egress to be maintained during construction and demolition, remodeling or alterations and additions to any building.

When structures are under construction, alteration or demolition, **proposal F149-02** will require that not less than one approved portable fire extinguisher for ordinary hazard be provided at:

1. At each stairway on all floor levels where combustible materials have accumulated.
2. In every storage and construction shed.
3. Additional portable fire extinguishers shall be provided where special hazards exist, such as the storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids.

A clarification was made to several code sections regarding the size of the **fire extinguisher**. It was pointed out that there are no available fire extinguishers sized 2-A: 20B:C. The correct size to indicate would be a 3A: 40-B:C. The is no 2-A: 60-B:C available, it should be a 4-A: 60B:C

The title "Service Station" was successfully changed to **Motor Fuel dispensing facilities**, which will add clarification. This will apply to all types including automotive, marine and

liquefied petroleum gas motor fuel dispensing facilities. The same change was proposed to the IBC, IMC, IFGC, and the IZC.

Two definitions were added for automotive service station and self service station.

Proposal F168-02 will require a new or additional sign be placed within the sight of each dispenser in the fuel dispensing area that says: Portable containers shall not be filled while located inside the trunk, passenger compartment, or truck bed of a vehicle.

A very important proposal with far reaching implications was **F176-02**. It became very evident that **hydrogen motor vehicle fuel dispensing and generation stations** will become a reality that we will see in our foreseeable futures. The evidence of this became clear when it was announced that the ICC Ad Hoc Committee for Hydrogen Gas was funded by the United States Federal Department of Energy (DOE). This included the committee and study. It was indicated that the groups involved in the industrial scale production of hydrogen currently implement many successful proprietary methodologies for safely generating and handling large amounts of hydrogen. NASA depends on cryo-hydrogen as a fuel and has effectively proven the safety of large scale ground and vehicle systems which support the Space Shuttle Program. In some markets, agencies of government have mandated that automakers move ahead with production of alternative fueled vehicles to somewhat offset the atmospheric implications of our economy that is almost entirely driven by petro-based fuels and thereby facilitate a shift to the use of renewable energy supplies.

In many cases the hydrogen fuel is utilized with air, within a fuel cell to produce electricity and in some cases co-generate heat. There will be typically 2 classes of equipment—those that generate hydrogen (for use by other devices) and those that utilize hydrogen as their energy input. In some cases, hydrogen will be utilized in a manner similar to the current use of natural gas.

The difference however between natural gas and

hydrogen is that hydrogen is odorless, and burns with a flame that is invisible to the human eye. Both hydrogen gas and natural gas are lighter than air, but hydrogen is lighter than natural gas and is more diffusive and is more buoyant than natural gas. This means that in well ventilated areas, such as, outdoors, hydrogen will dissipate more quickly than natural gas. However, hydrogen can accumulate in unventilated pockets at the top of indoor structures, which is a very different risk where propane and gasoline can accumulate at the floor level. This means that ignition sources will need to be removed at the top of any unventilated spaces for hydrogen and natural gas, while ignition sources will need to be removed near the floor for gasoline and propane.

Because of the new technologies and design methodologies for the use and handling of hydrogen and the lack of any singular set of established criteria to evaluate, access or certify specific equipment and components for hydrogen use the ACH endorses a position where caution is exercised when considering the approval of what (for the time being) may be unlisted and unlabeled equipment.

NOTE: 2000 scf (standard cubic feet) of hydrogen is roughly the equivalent of quantity of hydrogen stored in one vehicle and these vehicles will be distributed everywhere and operating without limitations.

Some items were deleted from **proposal F176-02** on hydrogen before it was approved. Some of these items included deleting all references to enclosed or indoor dispensing operations and equipment, hydrogen generation and storage equipment on roofs of buildings and some clarifications of issues in the table for minimum separation distances. This proposal was approved as amended.

Proposal F190-02 changed the maximum allowable quantity per control area of Hazardous Materials posing a Physical Hazard, Table 2703.1.1 (1). The change combined Classes IB

and IC to allow 120 gallons in storage or use-closed systems and 30 gallons in use-open systems. This can be doubled in a sprinklered building.

Proposal F195-02 attempted to double the maximum allowable quantities of Class 2 and 3 oxidizers per indoor and outdoor control areas in Group M and S occupancies. This would have permitted 4,500 pounds of Class 2 oxidizers and 2,300 pounds of Class 3 oxidizers! There was a lot of testimony against this proposal. One of the surprising testimonials came from Laura Dion with TVA who testified against the proposal. She indicated that the Big Box retailers have had great losses directly resulting from calcium hypochlorite fires including burning one Big Box to the ground. This proposal was disapproved.

Most of the code proposals regarding **LP Gas** were defeated. These included not requiring a permit for installation for LP Gas containers, allowing certain sizes of LP Gas containers in basements, pits or similar locations and lowering the separation distances of LP Gas containers to openings in buildings to automotive fuel dispensing, public buildings such as schools, churches, hospitals and other public gathering places.

If you would like to see or download the results of all the code changes, you can find them on the Internet at:

<http://www.intlcode.org/codes/2002cycle/2002roh.html>.

As the MN Chair of the International Fire Code Committee, I would like to extend an invitation to any inspectors or fire marshals to attend a bi-monthly code development meeting where we develop code proposals to send to the International Code Council to be heard at the ICC public meetings. The code development meetings are held in Maple Grove at the Government Center at 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway. If you would like to be added to the notification of meetings list, please e-mail me your request to marnlund@ci.maple-grove.mn.us.

If you would like to attend the next public code hearing, it will be held in Fort Worth, Texas on September 29th to October 4th. The code hearings are an excellent way to not only learn the code, but to learn the intent of the code.

FROM NFSA REGION #15:

Jon-

I discussed this issue with the Chair of the MN NFSA Chapter and donations to certain projects are under reconsideration.

The Chapter feels slighted recently after some months ago, you and I discussed the questionable actions of Mr. Magdal's "advertising" without FMAM Board approval on your web page for "Wirsbo". The two issues then were the promotion of "Wirsbo" versus the promotion of "multi purpose systems" entirely. The second was the concern of certain legislation being pushed to blatantly circumvent the MN statutes that your State Fire Marshal and personnel, including yourself, have diligently worked on to ensure competently installed fire sprinkler systems are installed. As the Chapter and the NFSA has professed time and time again, there is no objection to someone performing fire sprinkler work after having met the same licensure, certification, and training criteria as any other party in the State of MN.

The MN NFSA Chapter has informed me of further action Thursday evening stemming from a fax or letter of Mr. Magdal's which I have not yet seen.

The NFSA and the MN Chapter of the NFSA are the absolute last people you will ever find to be anti fire sprinkler. However, certain persons that do not research the facts before slinging the mud will only continue to cause friction. This needs to stop and all that are reading this I am sure are professional enough to understand this. There is always time to sit and discuss issues on the subject of fire sprinklers without burning bridges. This includes times where adults will need to agree to disagree and move on to the next subject.

As you know, most of the folks at NFSA are from the Fire Service and are after the same thing as recently stated by the USFA, all new buildings in this country should be built with

fire sprinklers. And part 2 was that they need to be affordable. But, we need to ensure that they are designed and installed competently and properly maintained. One fatality in a fire sprinklered home due to inaction or improper action of a fire sprinkler system will ruin years of hard work that you, Mr. Magdal, and thousands of other fire service and fire sprinkler professionals have done.

Thanks for your time the other day in discussing this and keeping me in the loop on FMAM concerns. It was great to see all of you again during NFPA.

Most sincerely,
Dominick G. Kass
Regional Manager, Great Plains States
National Fire Sprinkler Assn.

1306 to Require More Sprinklers And Be More Adoptable

Minnesota is called a "Mini/Maxi State" because local jurisdictions are not allowed to be more or less restrictive than the State Building Code. (SBC) To help give local elected officials the option of determining fire protection levels in their cities interested parties are working on additional options for the SBC in regard to fire sprinkler requirements. This optional appendix to the Minnesota Building Code was originally called "Appendix E". It's now called "Appendix 1306". You may visit the FMAM website at http://www.fmam.org/apendix_1306.htm to to see a draft version of this re-write.



Open Consensus Code Development Process Comes Home to Minnesota

By Tim Fuller , Fire Chief, St. Paul Fire Department

As fire service professionals, we are all committed to the highest standards of public safety. Every day, we face the importance of safety issues in real-life situations. When it comes to building codes, it is critical that all relevant areas of expertise -- whether it is fire protection or construction and maintenance -- are given proper consideration.

Open Consensus There is no better way to ensure that a code will be widely accepted than to involve the groups who will be impacted in the code's development. That is why state and local governments should adopt codes and standards that have been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a private, non-profit organization that administers and coordinates the U.S. voluntary standardization and conformity assessment system. For 80 years, ANSI has accredited code and standard developers that adhere to consensus principles. In order to receive such accreditation, code development bodies have to require numerous checks and balances so that a single interest group doesn't dominate the code development process.

This May, right here in Minnesota , eligible members of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) will have another opportunity to actively participate in the code development process as the organization votes on NFPA 5000, Building Code. NFPA members from around the country will vote on the final document when they gather for the organization's annual meeting in Minneapolis May19-23. Of particular interest to fire service professionals: If approved by members, NFPA 5000 will be the only model building code which includes firefighter safety as a part of its scope.

NFPA 5000 is to be the first building code document developed through an ANSI-accredited process. ANSI accreditation is strong testimony to the fairness and quality of NFPA's

process. The accreditation signifies that the procedures NFPA uses in the development of codes and standards meet ANSI's requirements for openness and due process.

Commitment to State Resources We in the fire service know NFPA works closely with local and state governments to enhance public safety through public education initiatives, research, and the development of key safety codes. NFPA also plans to help government officials reduce costs when they adopt major safety codes. When key NFPA codes are adopted at the state level, NFPA will make free training available for code enforcers. Government enforcers who participate in the free training also will receive complimentary copies of those major codes. This means when a state adopts a major NFPA code, the latest reference materials and expert training would be available to every jurisdiction in that state, regardless of the jurisdiction's size or resources, at no cost to taxpayers. No other code organization has made a commitment of this kind.

The bottom line: NFPA offers a full and open code development process. NFPA knows that those who will have to use, enforce, build, and live by its codes will have valuable input, and encourages them to participate in the process.

Fire service professionals who are eligible members of NFPA have a tremendous opportunity – and responsibility – to vote on NFPA's Building Code at the organization's annual meeting in Minneapolis this May. For additional information about this meeting, visit www.nfpa.org or call 617-770-3000. For more information about NFPA 5000, including the technical committee structure, drafts of the document, public and committee proposals, meeting minutes, and upcoming events, visit the NFPA building code Web site at www.nfpa.org/buildingcode or call 617-984-7263.



**By Greg Johnson, Director
International Conference of Building Officials**

To the Editor:

I read Chief Fuller's opinion on the FMAM website, copied below, with interest. It's good to welcome a new voice to the critical debate that's been occurring since NFPA, over significant industry and local government objections, announced its intention to develop a building code.

I'm concerned though that the piece doesn't acknowledge some of the problematic results that have occurred in in NFPA's industry dominated code development process. I'm not sure that the National Multi-Housing Council, (Panel 7, NFPA 70); the National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association (NFPA 1710); or opponents of the rooftop storage of propane, (NFPA 58, see Fire Engineering March 2000), would agree with your assesment that NFPA's ANSI accreditation is "strong testimony to the fairness and quality of NFPA's process". Each of these organizations and individuals can document unfairness and inequalities in the NFPA process.

I'm also troubled by the inference that NFPA, as a code developer, is unique in some way for providing affected industries the opportunity to participate in the code development process. That clearly isn't accurate as anyone who has participated in the International Code Council's governmental code development process can attest.

Regarding NFPA's commitment to lowering local government costs: How many copies of, and how much training on, for example, has NFPA provided for local jurisdictions on the National Electrical Code? Isn't that a "major" & "key" code? Further, a quick look at the cost of future training by NFPA shows that local government will in fact pay more for its training in an NFPA code adopted environment than in those jurisdictions that have adopted the

International series of codes. There's no such thing as a free lunch.

A last point on NFPA's commitment to lowering local government costs: Why doesn't NFPA fund the cost of local government participation in the code development process as does the International Code Council? It could be argued that by not providing that funding that NFPA's process appears designed to inhibit local government participation in the code development process, particularly the participation of smaller jurisdictions.

A factual error also needs to be addressed in Chief Fuller's piece. NFPA 5000, which still faces final action, will probably not be the only building code to address firefighter safety in its' scoping provisions. Code change proposal G2-02, approved as modified at the last public code hearings of the ICC, adds firefighter and emergency responder safety provisions to the scoping provisions of the International Building Code. Like NFPA 5000, the document still faces final action by it's members.

Also like NFPA, the ICC offers a full and open code development process. The ICC knows that those who will have to use, enforce, build, and live by its codes will have valuable input, and encourages them to participate in the process.

I also would encourage everyone who has the opportunity to attend NFPA's meeting in Minneapolis to see for themselves just exactly what NFPA's got cooking. Keep in mind though that what's on the menu isn't necessarily what comes out of the kitchen.



**By Jim Tidwell, Fire Marshal
Fort Worth, TX**

To the Editor:

The ongoing debate about "which code is best" is certainly an interesting one. I seems that many of us in the fire service have forgotten our battle cry when the "single code concept" was floated many years ago. In each organization that was active at the time, resolutions were passed by the membership (IFCI, WFC, etc.) that the fire service would support a code that was "promulgated by the fire service" (similar to the processes of the past that are currently utilized by ICC). While NFPA continues to maintain their mantra about "open consensus", anyone who has attempted to participate in the process understands that the bulk of the work is done at a committee level with very little input past the written comments that are submitted to a committee. This is in direct opposition to the ICC process, where everyone has the opportunity to provide both written comment and to participate in an active debate before the committee makes its recommendation to the body. This is just one of the problems with the process that cannot be overcome without a change in procedures. Obviously, cost of participation is another issue; anyone with a proprietary interest in the outcome of a code provision will fund whatever level of participation is necessary to attain their goal; fire service, on the other hand, is the only "special interest" with public safety as our primary goal. Most fire service organizations do not have the funding to participate in multiple committees, then attend two annual meetings, etc. etc. My point is that anyone who has witnessed one of the more controversial debates within the NFPA arena fully understands that the "open consensus" process only works for those with the funding to fully wage a legislative type battle; this means that most of us who are simply trying to develop the best set of regulations for our communities tend to get left out a lot.

Conversely, the ICC currently funds jurisdiction participation at a relatively high level, and they are contemplating ways to enhance fire service

participation in particular. Otherwise, those with an interest can participate via written comment or by attending only two meetings per year; attendance guarantees access to the debate arena to assure our voice is heard.

I'd like to see more discussion on this issue in this arena; I think it's healthy for those of us in the public safety arena to air our differences and attempt to come to agreement where we can. Simply put, that's the way we can best serve our constituents.



2002 PUBLIC EDUCATION EVENTS

Visit the State Fire Marshal's Website for updates

www.dps.state.mn.us/fmarshal/PublicEducation/2002FirePreventionEvents.htm

- Win the Race Against Fire Brainerd International. Raceway July 5 & 6, 2002
- Fire Safety with the Dukes Wade Stadium, Duluth July - To Be Announced
- Fire Safety with the Saints Midway Stadium, St. Paul July 26, 2002
- Firefighter Night at the Races Raceway Park, Shakopee August - To Be Announced
- Governors Fire Prevention Day State Fairgrounds, St. Paul August 23, 2002

What is Risk Watch?

Risk Watch is the first comprehensive injury prevention program available for use in schools. Developed by NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) with co-funding from the Lowe's Home Safety Council and in collaboration with a panel of respected safety and injury prevention experts, Risk Watch gives children and their families the skills and knowledge they need to create safer homes and communities.

Risk Watch is a school-based curriculum that links teachers with community safety experts and parents. The curriculum is divided into five age-appropriate teaching modules (Pre-K/Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, and Grades 7-8), each of which addresses the following topics:

- Motor Vehicle Safety
- Fire and Burn Prevention
- Choking, Suffocation, and Strangulation Prevention
- Poison Prevention
- Falls Prevention
- Firearms Injury Prevention
- Bike and Pedestrian Safety
- Water Safety

These topic areas represent the eight areas kids ages 14 and under are at greatest risk to unintentional injury.

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Robbie Floyd, Fire Marshal
Andover Fire Department
13875 Crosstown Blvd
Andover, MN 55304

Meeting
June 12, 2002
Bloomington Fire Station
12:30pm Education Portion
Membership Meeting to Follow